

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 100827

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USCINCEUR

USMTM DHAHRAN

S E C R E T STATE 100827

EXDIS

MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOLL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO AMMAN KUWAIT LONDON SANAA TEHRAN
FROM JIDDA 24 MAY 73 REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

S E C R E T JIDDA 2159

EXDIS

DEPT PASS USCINCEUR, DOD/ ISA AND USMTM, DHAHRAN

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SA, YE

SUBJ: SAUDI MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO NORTH YEMEN

REF: JIDDA 1947

1. DURING THIRD WEEK IN MAY FOUR MEETINGS WERE HELD
BETWEEN USMTM PERSONNEL AND OFFICERS OF MODA TO DETERMINE--
ON BASIS OF GENERAL QABBANI'S RECENT MISSION-- THOSE AREAS
WHERE YAR'S MILITARY MOST DEFICIENT AND WHERE SAG'S
ASSISTANCE COULD DO MOST GOOD. DISCUSSIONS WERE SOMEWHAT
INEFFECTIVE IN SENSE THAT SAUDIS HAVE TENDED TO CONCENTRATE
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PAGE 02 STATE 100827

ON LONG RATHER THAN SHORT RANGE NEEDS. SAUDI OFFICERS SEEM IN HURRY PROVIDE PRINCE SULTAN WITH PACKAGE COST APPROXIMATION AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY.

2. IN GENERAL SAUDI OFFICERS REPORT YAR' S MILITARY CAPABILITY ALMOST NIL, AND THAT YEMENIS ANXIOUS OBTAIN EQUIPMENT FROM WESTERN SOURCES SO THEY CAN ASK 120 RUSSIAN ADVISERS TO LEAVE. FOLLOWING TENTATIVE CONCLUSIONS REACHED IN USMTM/ MODA DISCUSSIONS TO DATE:

(A) AIR FORCE - MODA OFFICERS WILL RECOMMEND TRYING TO OBTAIN FOR NORTH YEMEN F-5 B TYPE AIRCRAFT OR F-5 E (WITH LESS SOPHISTICATED DEVICES) SINCE RSAF POSSESSION OF F-5 SERIES SHOULD FACILITATE TRAINING, MAINTENANCE AND SUPPLY. ADDITIONALLY SAG CONSIDERING PROVIDING YAR WITH 12 HELICOPTERS OF 205 SERIES AND ABOUT 6 CARGO AIRCRAFT OF AN UNDECIDED MAKE.

(B) NAVY - USMTM SUCCESSFULLY ARGUED DOWN MODA INTEREST IN COASTAL GUNS FOR YAR. USMTM PERSONNEL SEEKING TO PERSUADE MODA ON MERITS OF SMALL FAST PATROL BOAT TYPE VESSEL.

(C) ARMY - USMTM REPORTS GOOD PROGRESS ON DISCUSSION OF HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS AND THAT TALKS CONTINUING ON AMMUNITION AND SUPPORT NEEDS.

3. MODA STILL APPEARS TO BE DRAGGING THEIR FEET RE SHIPMENT OF HIGH PRIORITY ITEMS BEFORE REPLACEMENTS ARRIVE IN COUNTRY. USMTM HOPES THAT WITHIN NEXT 10-15 DAYS MODA' S " PACKAGE PLAN" WILL BE SUFFICIENTLY DEVELOPED TO PROVIDE PRINCE SULTAN WITH DETAILS AND COST APPROXIMATIONS.

4. AMBASSADOR EXPECTS MEET WITH PRINCE FAHD MAY 26 OR 27. AMB. INTENDS BEAR DOWN WITH CONSIDERABLE EMPHASIS ON NEED FOR PROMPT SAUDI ACTION TO ASSIST YAR WITH MORAL BOOSTING SMALL ARMS SHIPMENTS OR EQUIVALENT DRAWING ON INFORMATION AND IMPRESSIONS GAINED FROM AMB ' S JUST COMPLETED VISIT TO SANAA.

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